



The Upstate Planner

Making Great Communities Happen

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President's Message

By Mike Long, AICP, RLA

This September promises another exciting conference for the APA New York Upstate Chapter. Jim Kent and I have been working diligently on the "Tomorrow's Technology Today" gathering in our hometown of Auburn, New York.

In addition to the APA, the Upstate Chapter of ASLA and the NYS Geographic Information Association (NYSGISA) are co-hosts. Also contributing are Cornell University, The New York State Urban Council, and the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology (IAGT).

Bob Brower, the CEO of IAGT, will offer the opening plenary session highlighting the "cutting edge" technology that he has developed in alliance with NASA. IAGT projects around the world are some of the most exciting around.

William Fulton, a national planning figure, returns to his hometown of Auburn to be our keynote speaker. Fulton is an authority on sprawl, economic development and smart growth. He is also a city council member in Ventura, California.

Last year we had over 250 conference registrants and this year we hope to offer another exciting program that will re-energize many planning professionals.

Please visit www.nyupstateplanning.org, our NY Upstate Planning web site for registration information.

Long is the interim City Manager of Auburn.

More conference information on pages 3, 4, and 5.

Tomorrow's Technology Today conference

Cutting-edge planning is the focus of many sessions coming together for the Upstate Chapter Conference. "Tomorrow's Technology Today" is the theme for the gathering, set for September 13 through September 15, in Auburn.

One track, labeled Cutting Edge Technology for Design Professionals, includes sessions on Geographic Information Systems, Census analysis and Internet Mapping. Other sessions about geothermal energy and clean communities are part of the Energy and Economic Development. Other tracks feature a look at waterfront design as part of the greater bioregion and historic district mapping.

In addition to long-term conference partner, the American Society of Landscape Architects, The Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology offers its expertise to attendees. Affiliated with the National Aero-

navics and Space Administration, IAGT will conduct several sessions. Robert Brower, CEO of the IAGT will be the plenary speaker focusing on the integration of geospatial technol-

Conf. Dates: Sept. 13 to Sept. 15

ogy into planning. Other participants include the New York State GIS Association and New York State Urban Council.

With the support of Cornell University, William Fulton, president of Solimar Research Group, will give the keynote address. A frequent contributor to the Urban Land Institute and the author of Governing Magazine's column on economic development, Bill can contrast planning in his home of Ventura, California with his birthplace in Auburn. (Fulton offers early comments to the *Upstate Planner* on page 3.)

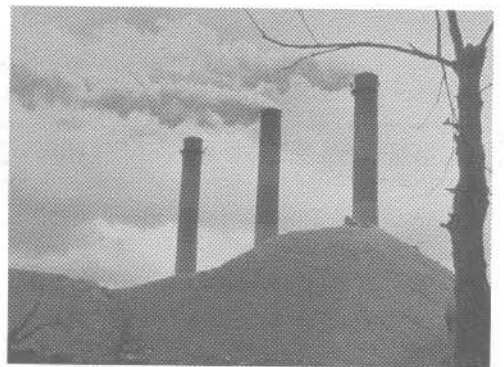
APA weighs in against anti-global warming ruling

By Lora Lucero, AICP

Does global warming endanger public health? That is the question before the U.S. Supreme Court and the American Planning Association believes that the Environmental Protection Agency should regulate the emission of greenhouse gases as health hazards.

On June 26, 2006, the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear next term the "global warming" case brought by the state of Massachusetts and others against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Without a doubt, all eyes should be focused on this case, certainly the bellwether for how the Justices will respond to environmental challenges for many years to come. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito have both joined the Court this term, creating a new team with a very scant track record from which to make predictions.

The American Planning Association joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors,



For decades the EPA has regulated pollutants to protect public welfare. The APA wants that protection to extend to greenhouse gases. (Photo: Environmental Protection Agency)

the National Association of Counties, and the City of Seattle to urge the Court to accept this case for review. Why? As local officials and planners, we will be the first responders for the variety of disasters that

See Warming, continued on page 7

Border dispute: Understanding Canadian licensing requirements

By *George McKibbin, MCIP, RPP, AICP*

I was asked why New York State residents could not be members in the Ontario Professional Planners Institute in Ontario. I was unaware of the situation and, as the Ontario representative on the Chapter Board, I promised to find out.

The Canadian Institute of Planners and the American Planning Association provide equivalent opportunities for Canadians and Americans to be recognized professionals across borders. Each organization recognizes the others membership's educational and professional work experience requirements and extends membership opportunities to members provided they successfully complete their exams.

In Canada, the planning profession is organized differently at the Provincial level. Provincial organizations are affiliates of the Canadian Institute of Planners and are much more independently organized than state chapters. These affiliates may have additional membership requirements, in part because of the varying legislative frameworks within which municipal governments operate in each province.

The provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick allow the affiliates to regulate who can be designated as a professional planner. At least two provinces require certified planners to undertake certain planning tasks before the planning instruments have been finalized. Examples include the following:

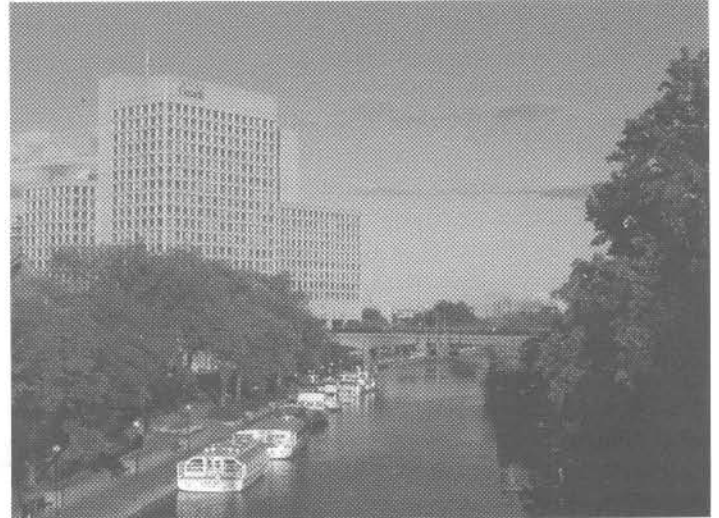
- In Ontario, a planner has to meet the membership requirements of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute to use the term "Registered Professional Planner" (RPP);
- In Saskatchewan, a planner must meet requirements of the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan to use the designation "Professional Community Planner" (PCP);
- In Alberta, a planner has to meet the requirements of the Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners, to use the designation "Alberta Community Planner" (ACP);
- In New Brunswick, a planner has to meet the requirements of the New Brunswick Association of Planners to use the designation "Registered Professional Planner" (RPP).

Saskatchewan requires comprehensive community plans be signed by "Professional Community Planners" before enactment. In Quebec, licensed planners have to be fluent in French.

Provincial affiliates are beginning to think about the question of membership portability between provinces. Ontario requires additional exams before providing full membership and use of the designation "Registered Professional Planner" whereas Alberta has no requirement beyond paying the required affiliate dues. Out of province membership is not permitted by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

I believe these residency requirements are impractical and, with further experience, changes will lead them to be more inclusive. For example, Ottawa planners living across the river in the Hull, Quebec cannot be members of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute even though they may be employed as planners in Ottawa.

In Ontario, the Registered Professional Planner designation car-



Ottawa's Rideau Canal is a civic asset in summer or winter.

(Photo: George Homsy.)

ries weight because private and public sector employers use membership as an important criterion for employment. Administrative tribunals which decide planning disputes recognize the designation as qualification for giving evidence. A fully qualified member can use the designations, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP) and Registered Professional Planner (RPP).

Comparable arrangements exist in some U.S. states. New Jersey requires a separate exam to become a licensed professional planner. The test addresses New Jersey's planning legislation and state plans. Licensed professional planners are governed by the New Jersey Board of Professional Planners. Furthermore, the law requires planning advice be only provided by licensed professional planners. State organizations only hire or retain licenses planners. While less extensive, Michigan also licenses planners.

As planning becomes more complicated and society relies increasingly upon planners for thoughtful and precise advice, governments will look to our professional organizations to ensure our members are properly qualified to ensure the best advice is given and our professional practices are reliable. As state and provincial certification requirements increase, issues of portability between them will become more important.

The best way to address these differences is to be aware of the differing requirements and obtain those professional designations you are eligible for. For United States AICP planners in New York, you are eligible for membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners provided you pass the membership exam. This will allow you to use the initials MCIP (Member Canadian Institute of Planners) with your name as you practice in Ontario.

Finally, it may be appropriate for the Upstate and Metro Chapters to reconsider whether licensing planners is needed and what form licenses would take to provide the best planning services to governments and residents in New York.

McKibbin is a planner with McKibbin Wakefield, Inc. in Ottawa, Ontario.